

**HOUSE OF LORDS
APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

Room G/39, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

General Enquiries: 020 7276 6794

Internet: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>

E-mail: enquiry@lordsappointments.gov.uk

Ref: HOLAC FOI 2020/2

7 February 2020

By email: <REDACTED>

Freedom of Information Act

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request, which the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) received on 20 January 2020.

You asked for:

- *Any correspondence received by the Commission from John Bercow or a member of his staff.*

- *Any correspondence received by the Commission related to the last Speaker John Bercow.*

The information you have requested falls within sections 37(1)(b) (the conferring by the Crown of an honour or dignity). We neither confirm nor deny whether we hold information you have requested under section 37(1)(b).

Section 37(1)(b) is a qualified exemption and we have considered the public interest in providing a 'neither confirm nor deny' response. HOLAC recognises that there may be a public interest in confirming whether or not the Commission holds or does not hold any correspondence on this subject. However, HOLAC considers that confirming whether or not we hold the requested information would in itself disclose information that would otherwise be exempt under section 37(1)(b), subject to a public interest test.

We have determined that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming or denying whether we hold the information in question.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may write to the Secretary to the Commission, Helen Ewen, to ask for an internal review by another person not

involved with this request. Please note that we will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Secretariat to the House of Lords Appointments Commission